

ridge formed integrally therewith and projecting therefrom in a direction substantially perpendicular to said mesh layer when said mesh layer is in said first condition, said at least one ridge being sized and shaped so as to facilitate the movement of said mesh layer from its said collapsed shape to its said flat shape, and said mesh layer in the location of said at least one ridge having a rigidity which is not greater than the rigidity of the rest of said mesh layer.

3. (Amended) The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 2, wherein said at least one ridge is sized and shaped such that said mesh layer is expandable from its said collapsed shape to its said flat shape after being implanted in a body.

Please insert the following new claims.

16. (New) A prosthetic mesh system adapted for implantation in a body, comprising a biocompatible mesh layer, said mesh layer being flexible such that said mesh layer has a generally flat shape when it is in a first condition and a generally collapsed shape when it is in a second condition, said mesh layer having at least one ridge formed integrally therewith and projecting therefrom in a direction substantially perpendicular to said mesh layer when said mesh layer is in said first condition, said at least one ridge being sized and shaped so as to facilitate the movement of said mesh layer from its said collapsed shape to its said flat shape, and said at least one ridge having a rigidity which is not greater than the rigidity of the rest of said mesh layer.

17. (New) The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 16, wherein said at least one ridge is formed by a thermo-forming process.

*03*

18. (New) The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 17, wherein said at least one ridge is sized and shaped such that said mesh layer is expandable from its said collapsed shape to its said flat shape after being implanted in a body.

19. (New) The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 16, wherein said at least one ridge includes a plurality of ridges formed in said mesh layer.

20. (New) The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 19, wherein each of said ridges has a ring shape, said ridges being arranged in a concentric manner.